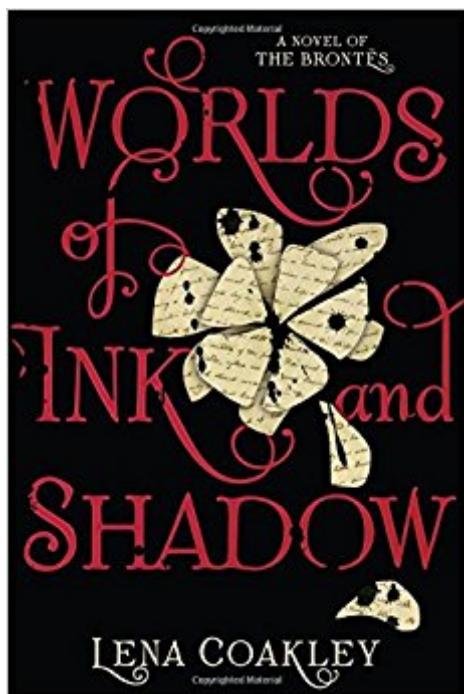


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Worlds Of Ink And Shadow: A Novel Of The Brontës



Synopsis

Charlotte, Branwell, Emily, and Anne. The Brontë siblings find escape from their constrained lives via their rich imaginations. The glittering world of Verdopolis and the romantic and melancholy world of Gondal literally come to life under their pens, offering the sort of romance and intrigue missing from their isolated parsonage home. But at what price? As Branwell begins to slip into madness and the sisters feel their real lives slipping away, they must weigh the cost of their powerful imaginations, even as the characters they have created—“the brooding Rogue and dashing Duke of Zamorna”—refuse to let them go. Gorgeously written and based on the Brontës’ juvenilia, *Worlds of Ink and Shadow* brings to life one of history’s most celebrated literary families in a thrilling, suspenseful fantasy.

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Customer Reviews

"This sad but fascinating look into the tragically short lives of the famed siblings successfully mixes facts with a fantastical premise to create a gripping and innovative story. VERDICT A strong historical fantasy that will appeal to readers who are already fans of the Brontës' novels and spark interest among those unfamiliar with their works and lives." (School Library Journal)"Taking her inspiration from the Brontës' juvenilia, Coakley offers an imaginative story of their childhood, in which the four supremely talented siblings have the power to transport themselves to the worlds of their fiction...readers familiar with the writers will likely enjoy noticing hints of the novels to come... this will nonetheless likely appeal to fans of clever literary fiction." (Booklist)

Charlotte, Branwell, Emily, and Anne. The Brontës have always been inseparable. After all, nothing can bond four siblings quite like life in an isolated parsonage out on the moors. Their vivid imaginations lend them escape from their strict upbringing, actually transporting them into their created worlds: the glittering Verdopolis and the romantic and melancholy Gondal. But at what price? As Branwell begins to descend into madness and the sisters feel their real lives slipping away, they must weigh the cost of their powerful imaginations, even as their characters—the brooding Rogue and the dashing Duke of Zamorna—refuse to let them go. Gorgeously written and based on the Brontës' own juvenilia, *Worlds of Ink and Shadow* brings to life one of history's most celebrated literary families in a thrilling, suspenseful fantasy. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I enjoyed learning more about the Bronte's.

I was unable to finish. I didn't like the characters (and I LOVE the Brontes). Just could not get into the story. Sad I spent the money

So, *Wuthering Heights* is my favorite book...probably ever. I mean I understand why most people hate it, Heathcliff and Catherine are terrible horrible people and yet I love them. Every time I pick up that book I cry because of the gorgeous and haunting writing. So I had super high hopes for a Bronte sisters story about them actually jumping into their own writing and...it was not what I wanted. It is a story about the three sisters and their brother Branwell traveling to the fictional worlds of Verdopolis which they created and giving life to the characters Zamorna and Alexander Rogue two people with total different personalities and opposite ideas on morals. Zamorna is royalty and the nice guy, he is loved by everybody and wants the world to turn on another good day. I mean he is horrible with women, he can't seem to find the one to fall in love with and even when he does they die. Charlotte controls him and it is in the plot to make him shallow with no real feelings or story line. He is absolutely boring to read. Then there is Rogue, the highway man, the evil bad guy who just wants to rule the world and take down Zamorna while he's at it. He is controlled by Branwell and has actual feelings and way more dimensions but that doesn't make him any more interesting really. I usually adore bad guys but the constant whining the Bronte's did just didn't speed the story up or make me any more excited to turn the page. Now, I didn't know the side story of the Bronte family, how they lost two older sisters and their brother. I knew that they died young but I had never dug into their lives before and this book definitely opens that door. There is one scene in particular

trigger warning for abuse, involving Marie I wasn't quite prepared for. The family life and their heartbreak was touching to read on the page but it didn't actually help me get into the story. I wanted to know more truth than get into this fiction so I started googling their lives online instead of read the book and that is never a good sign. I'm not saying it is horrible, it is just right down the middle in that area I hate books to be in I guess. I will say if someone loves historical fiction and magical realism it might be more up their alley than it was mine.

***I received this book as a gift in exchange for an honest review via the publisherAnyone who knows me well, knows that I have an absurd, almost neurotic obsession with the Brontës, more specifically, Anne. When I saw the Brontë tagline, I had to have it. I nearly convulsed with excitement. Who am I kidding? I was positively giddy. Immediately, from the very first sentence, I was held captive by this stunning glimpse into the Brontë childhood and their marvelous, fanciful stories. Imaginary worlds, magic, folklore, and history all combine for a lovely re-imagining of the famous Brontë siblings.PROS:That dark, almost Gothic Victorian feeling is in abundance. You'll feel like you've been transported into a Brontë or Austen novel. The rich, dreary scenery and melancholy is quite a diversion. Verdopolis and Gondal are mesmerizing, exhilarating worlds full of intrigue, scandal, and villains. Just the sort of seedy, criminal underworlds and upper-class mischief that sweeps you up into the story. Rogue is a suave rascal, full of gruff comments and spur of the moment adventures. Think Captain Hook. The underlying folklore aspect and magic is a compelling twist that will keep you guessing. Each POV is unique. You see the Wuthering Heights in Emily's devilish attraction to danger and the rush she gets at the corruption. Matters of the heart and soul are her forte. She's a vivacious and excitable young girl full of wonder and imagination. Charlotte is a bit stuck up and proud. She knows she has skill and feels jilted that her brother gets all the attention. At the same time, she's a major control freak. All of these quirks you'll find parallel the true Charlotte and more. Anne is perceptive, realistic, and reigns in the insanity

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